RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 14th August 1997/Shravana, 1919 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, I would like to raise.... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 321..... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, I would like to raise an issue concerning today's function... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing it in the Question Hour... (*Interruptions*).. I am not allowing it. (*Interruptions*).. Please sit down You cannot raise it in the Question Hour. ..(*Interruptions*).. You can raise it at twelve. ..(*Interruptions*)

अभी आप बैठिए । 12 बजे कर लीजिए । आपने अब एक नया तरीका अपना लिया है कि क्वेश्चन आवर में पूछने लगते हैं ।

श्री संजय डालमिया : रूल आपने अलाऊ किया था ।

उपसभापति : मैंने अलाऊ नहीं किया था । सिकन्दर बख्त साहब लीडर आफ अपोजीशन हैं । वे अगर खड़े होंगे तो मुझे उनको इज्जत करनी है और करनी चाहिए । अगर कोई भी खड़ा हो जाए, ऐसा थोड़ी चलता है । हम उस को चलाना है तो कायदे के मुताबिक चलाना होगा । उनकी आप मिसाल मत दीजिए । जब आप भी अपोजीशन के लीडर होंगे तो आपको भी अलाऊ करूंगी ।

Propagation of the Family Planning message through Panchayats

*321. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to motivate Panchayats, which now have 33 per cent women representatives for propagating the message of family planning in villages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) States have been advised to devotee spcific powers and responsibilities to Panchayats for Management of Health & Family Welfare Programme. Government of India has assisted States for sensitisation workshops for village level opinion leaders including Panchas and the Panchas have been prominently involved in Community mobilisation for Pulse Polio Immunisation. Under the participatory planning approach, the Health Workers Consult Panchayats to determine the felt need of the Community for contraceptives and terminal methods which becomes the target for the health workers for the year.

The States have been advised to devolve specific powers to the Panchayats for the management of health and family welfare programmes. The Government of India has assisted the States for giving these programmes for sensitising people across with the health and family welfare programmes so that there is a comprehensive approach to family planning.

DR. MOHAN BABU: Madam the reply is very good. The reply is not on propagating the message of family planning. The naswer that has been given is regarding the Pulse Polio Immunisation. My submission is that the population of India has increased by three times since Independence. Nearly 80 per cent of our population resides in rural areas. It is, therefor, here that family planning is needed most. Newly formed panchayats and local bodies can provide an excellent forum to send the message of family planning effectively to the villages because 33 per cent members of panchayats are women. But, no serious effort has been made to utilise the panchayats for this important objective. It is time to evaluate our achievements and failures. We should lay

emphasis on deveopment through empowerment of women. My supplementary questions are.. (*Interruptions*) ..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Be brief. Let her answer this first question.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, I think what should be understood by the House and the hon. Members is that family welfare is not to be treated in isolation with only contraceptives for preventing birth. When we bring down infant mortality, then fertility drops because the mother is assured that her child will live. It is vital that immunisation and other programmes that we have taken up under the National Health Scheme must be paid attention to. The best way to do it is through panchayats because there is direct access and control and funds go and reach the grassroots level. So, I would not deem it evasive when we say polio programmes have been given to our panchayats because immunisation, as everybody knows, prevents any kind of health break-down and promotes healthy lifestyles amongst the rural poor. As the hon. Member has rightly said it is amongst our rural people where the population continues to grow more as compared to urban areas. Keeping in view these perspectives in mind, we have empowered the people and the panchayats have taken funds direct from us and the recommendations made by us have been carried out and are directly reflected in the proportion of replacement levels that have been achieved in these areas.

DR. MOHAN BABU: My supplementary questions are, ..(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You say "my supplementary question is" ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. MOHAN BABU: I would like to know whether it is proposed to draw a different scheme for involving panchayats in the programmes of family planning in the rural areas. If so, what are the details thereof? It is also understood that some training courses are held for panchayat members from time to time. I want to know if any element of family planning is there in these courses. If it is not so, will the hon. Minister advise the State Governments to do so?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, I think, the hon. Member must understand that the question of devolution of powers by the State Governments of panchayats regarding family Welfare, inciuding health infrastructure, has been taken up with the State Governments by my department, that is the Department of Health and Family Welfare. We have had very good success in this. As much as 75,000 Mahila Swasthya Sangha women, working in panchayats, have been given training. The fact that today, in India States like Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, who have made success stories, shows that we have addressed ourselves to this problem

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal.

DR. MOHAN BABU: No, no, Madam, I have to ask a second supplementary.

उपसभापति : दो हो गये हैं ।

DR. MOHAN BABU: No, Madam I have asked only one.. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have asked two questions.

DR. MOHAN BABU: After two years (*Interruptions*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After two years you can ask all the questions It is your duty to come every day... (*Interruptions*).. Let others ask.. ... (*Interruptions*) .. Mr Mohan Babu, no doubt, you are a very good actor, but this stage has got many more actors Let me allow others also If necessary I will call you again. You have already asked two questions

श्री रामजीलाल : उपसभापति महोदय, यह क्वेश्चन तो बड़ा अच्छा है कि परिवार नियोजन संबंधी संदेश का पंचायतों के माध्यम से प्रचार किया जाए । अब पंचायतों में आरक्षण 33 प्रतिशत हो चुका है और महिलाएं मैम्बर भी बन चुकी हैं। हमारे गांवों में तो यह हाल है कि महिलाएं पंचायतों की मैम्बर जरूर हैं लेकिन पंचायत-घर में उनकी जगह उनके हसबैंड आते हैं, उनके पति आते हैं और घर पर जाकर उनके दस्तखत कराते हैं। जब तक उनको एजुकेट नहीं किया जायेगा, जब तक मैम्बर्स की एजुकेशन नहीं होगी, तब तक यह कैसे सहायता करेंगी । मैं मंत्री महोदया से आपके द्वारा यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्वेश्चन बड़ा अच्छा है और इसने गांवों में परिवार नियोजन के संबंध में महिलाएं बड़ी सहायता कर सकती है क्योंकि महिलाएं पंच भी हैं लेकिन उनको एजुकेट नहीं किया गया है । आपने यह कहा कि राज्य सरकारों को आपने हिदायतें दे दी हैं, लिख दिया है, मेरा कहना यह है कि केवल हिदायतें दे देने से काम नहीं चलता है । वहां कोई ऐसा तरीका अपनाया जाए क्योंकि गांवों के गरीब लोगों में परिवार नियोजन हो नहीं रहा है, पढ़े लिखे लोग तो कर रहे हैं । गांव की आबादी जो अनपढ़ लोगों की है, जो गरीब लोगों की है, वहां परिवार नियोजन नहीं अपनाया जा रहा है । इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि उनके लिए आप क्या उपाय करेंगे, क्या उनको एजुकेट करेंगे, एजुकेशन देंगे जिससे परिवार नियोजन पूरे देश में अपनाया जा सके ?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : मैडम, सवाल बड़ा मल्टिडिसिप्लिनरी सवाल में हट कर है, फिर भी मैं आपको जवाब देने की कोशिश करूंगी । सब से पहली बात यह है कि महिलाएं पंचायतों में हों या कहीं और हों, फैमली प्लानिंग का निर्णय पुरुषों द्वारा लिया जाता है, पुरुष यह निर्णय करता है कि घर में कितने बच्चे होंगे। हमें अफसोस इस बात का है कि सारे भारत देश में बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या को रोकने के बावजूद पुरुष सिर्फ 3 प्रतिशत इसमें भाग लेते हैं और इसीलिए यह जरूरत पड़ी कि पार्लियामेंट में भी 33 प्रतिशत रिजर्वेशन ले आएं । क्योंकि यह सब को पता है, Exclusive economic development takes place when fertility rate drops. तो एजुकेशन और गरीबी के नाते आप कह रहे हैं, यह सच नहीं है । कई हमारे लोग अमीर भी हैं जिनके पास 10–10, 12–12, 15–15 बच्चे होंगे ।

श्री रामजीलाल : अब नहीं है (व्यवधान) यह पहले की बात है ।... (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: So, it has a national approach. *(Interruptions)*.. It is a national approach and it is necessary for us that we take it as a national crisis management. आप सब अपनी अपनी पार्टी और अपने प्रदेशों से इस कार्यक्रम को सफल करेंगे । ... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : हम लोगों को पता लगना चाहिए कि यहां जितने लोग बैठे हैं उनके कितने बच्चे हैं। Because charity begins at home

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Madam, I am in agreement with hon. Minister that the Family Planning Programme cannot be treated in isolation. It has to be dealt with along with economic problems, particularly health problems. However, I could not follow her fully because she spoke in Hindi. But, in my humble view, the entire family planning policy cannot succeed in India unless the focus is shifted. That is to say, women do not have control over their bodies in India. Nor do they decide the number of children they are going to have. If they have two girls, three girls, the pressure is on the women by men, in the hope that the next one would be a boy. Therefore, my specific question is: Is the Gov-

vernment planning to change the four and target men,, primarily men, in carrying out the family planning programme? Do we have a plan? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Thank you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, must say, the hon. Member has hit the nail on the head. We are going to do this. In the new approach, we are going to address this question. We are going to target men also and enable men to overcome their fear and inhibitions that may have contributed to this.

Today, in our country, we have non-scalpel vasectomy. This has been very successful. We are now trying to get those people who have undergone this kind of a surgery to come forward and counsel others to participate in this.

There is also the development of a hormone, called FHS hormone, which could be given as an injection to the man. This is under clinical trials. I am optimistic that in the near future, we would be able to bring this out.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Madam, may I say one thing? I entirely agree with what the hon. Member has said, when she talked about the men's attitude. I agree with her. Therefore, in the new plan which my hon. friend is making, when the question of penalising those who have large families comes up, men will be aimed at more than women.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Would they agree? I think we will have to pursue; create the right atmosphere. (*Interruptions*).

आप लोग तो खानी कमिट कर दीजिए जो प्रधान मंत्री जी ने किया है। कोई मजाक थोड़े पूछा।

[illegible]

जो किलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : मैडम, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने तो हम लोगों को बहुत चीजों का कमिटमेंट कर दिया है ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति : आप करिए

Planning is more important. (*Interruptions*). As a Member of Parliament, you have the duty to commit yourself to the country. Shrimati Veena Verma.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैडम, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि हमारा इस संबंध में टार्गेट क्या है और क्या सन् 2000 तक हम उस टार्गेट को पूरा कर लेंगे। पहले यह 3 बच्चे का था, फिर 2 का हुआ और अब क्या हम 'बन चाइल्ड नार्म' अपनाने जा रहे हैं? क्या हम नई पापुलेशन पालिसी को एडाप्ट कर ने जा रहे हैं और उसका टार्गेट क्या है?

दूसरे मैडम बीजिंग कांफरेंस में यह बात आई थी कि हम लोगों को टार्गेट फ्री फैमिली प्लानिंग पालिसी बनानी चाहिए। इस बारे में मंत्री जी क्या कहना चाहती हैं और मैडम, कुछ वर्षों पहले दूरदर्शन पर राष्ट्रीय समाचारों से पहले जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखाई जाती थी या फिर सुबह-सुबह जब टी.वी. शुरू होता था तब जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखायी जाती थी। अब वह सब बंद हो गया है। मैडम, जब वह जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखायी जाती थी तब कुल जनसंख्या कितनी थी, आज कितनी है और कितने मानव बढ़ गए, यह कभी पढ़ा नहीं गया। मैंने कई बार इस बारे में लिखा और कई बार लिखने के बाद यह कहा गया कि आप सूचना समाचार केन्द्र को लिखिए/ सूचना विभाग को लिखिए और वह बंद कर दी गयी। तो क्या आप उसे फिर से चलाएंगे?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, I accept it. I accept the hon. Member's recommendation. We will attend to it forthwith.

THE DEPUTY CHARMAN: A very good suggestion.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मेरा एक छोटा सा पूरक प्रश्न और बाकी रह गया कि माना ही एडवर्टाइजमेंट को हम बहुत जोर से पढ़वाते थे, लेकिन जनसंख्या घड़ी को कभी नहीं पढ़वाया। मैंने इस बारे में बहुत कोशिश की, लेकिन वह कभी नहीं

पढ़ाई गई और जब जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखायी जाती थी तो टी० वी० चुप रहता था। मैं चाहूंगी कि उसे जोर से पढ़वाया जाये। क्या आप ऐसा करेंगे ?

मैडम, हमने लड़की की शादी की उम्र 18 वर्ष रखी है, क्या उसे बढ़ाने पर आप विचार करेंगे। मैडम, पहले फेमिली प्लानिंग एडॉप्ट करने पर इन-सेंटिव दिया जाता था, वह बंद हो गया है। क्या उसे आप फिर से चालू करेंगे ?

उपसभापति : वीणा जी, आप सबके सवालात मत पूछ लीजिए। सब लोग दल की तरह मुझ से नाराज हो जाएंगे।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैडम, अभी तक तो सिर्फ पुरुष ही इस बारे में पूछते रहे हैं जबकि वे कुछ अपनाते नहीं हैं।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, the revised Health and Family Welfare Policy would be brought before the House for discussion as soon as I can.

As regards the 'target free' approach, as was discussed in the Beijing Conference, India has already adopted the 'target free' approach in this. Here, I must clarify because many conflicting questions and thoughts have arisen from this. When we say 'target free', it is not that we are going to let the health workers sit idle; have a holiday. It is that, we will not now decide how many ICDs, how many pills, how many condoms, would be given. But the need for adopting family planning by their own choice will come from the grass-roots, and our Health Workers will continue to deliver the goods to them. So, the question that we will compromise on this does not arise.

As regards incentives for family planning, every once a while we revise our approach and our attitude to make family planning much more viable and comprehensive.

I would like to introduce a note of caution. Please don't compare India with China because we have two distinct political systems which rule over us. If you are going to empower me to do what China has done, then, it has to be a democratic approach which all of you will decide. We are here only to execute the will of the House.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : क्या दूरदर्शन को आप यह आदेश देंगे कि वह जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखवाये और पढ़वाए ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The hon. Prime Minister has given an assurance and it will be done.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : धन्यवाद।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam, there are near about 800 Members of Parliament. There are near about 4,000 Members of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils. The total comes to 5,000. There are round about 100,000 Panchas and Sarpanchas. The number of contesting candidates for all these elective posts comes to round about 10 lakhs.

Will the Government seriously consider the Representation of the People Act or the Local Bodies Act, as has been done in Rajasthan, whereby it has been provided that hereafter, since 1993 onwards, if any elected Panch or Sarpanch, whatever the sex gets a third child, he or she would be disqualified. Your problem will be solved. You may that it is men who decide about it. If you make a provision like this there will be no coercion. There will be no coercion like that of 1976. It is voluntary. If you want to go to Parliamentary you will have to follow this norm. If you want to be a Member of Panchayat or a Member of Assembly, you have to follow this norm. With eight children or ten children, you cannot be a Member of Assembly or Chief Minister or Prime Minister. Two years ago, somebody had ten, and somebody else had nine. We know it.

So, will the Government consider amending the laws to lay down disqualification for those who have more than

wo or three children after a particular date so as not to resort to coercion and so as to create a disincentive for those who violate this national norm?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What will happen to you, Agarwalji?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: My daughter has got two daughters, and she is not going to have another child.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Not your daughter, but your wife.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: My sons also. I have got three children, left us have a talk on who is who.. .... (*Interruptions*)

I am not like the former Prime Minister who has nine.

I do hope that the Minister concerned will do this. I have read your statement in the Press.

Will the Government seriously consider this question of bringing a legislation on the lines of Rajasthan and, maybe, some other States, I do not known laving down disqualification for people having more than two or three children?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Prospective or retrospective?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please let her answer this.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, I would like to have the attention of the House. It is vital that the country is seized with the importance of discussing our population situation which has reached a crisis management level.

In order to do this, just this morning there was a discussion held in the Parliament House Annexe with leaders and representatives of various political parties where this very issue was discussed. This Bill was brought for Parliament in 1992.

I want to mention this thing in brief so that all of you know where we stand. On August 12, 1996, a discussion took place. It was thought best to refer it to political parties. This morning, a formal discussion took place, which was the first of a serious of discussions so that we debate this Bill threadbare.

The question of coercion does not arise because it is a voluntary participation. Those who do not participate in the electoral process, need not adhere to what we are saying. But, in reality, the fact remains that there was a overwhelming response to this thought. Some reservations were also expressed because it was perceived to be somthing else and that it was not in the spirit in which the Bill was brought forward. It was perceived to be something else and not in the spirit in which the Bill has been brought forward. If and when the Bill comes to Parliament, it will necessarily take prospective effect with a cut-off point of nine to ten months so that it enables Members to have clarity of thought and action.

Also Madam, the Bill has to be comprehensive as we know atrocities against women keep on mounting that they will not misuse this and women will not be compelled to go in for forced medical termination of pregnancies or other such mal-practices which are rising in our society. I am happy to say that there were valuable suggestions given. One of the suggestions given earlier in the debate—I cannot really reveal everything that took place in the meeting as I am not authorised to is that not only elected Members of Assemblies and Parliament will be covered, but those who are employed by the Government will also be covered. That means people from all levels must also be brought under the purview of this Bill so that it forms motivation and an optima deterrant to that we can together work on this will. I hope when I bring the Bill to this House, it will enjoy the unanimous support of all of you. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may also take care that they may not be misused by men They can disown the child.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, the Bill will take cognisance of the biological parents. It will be paternity-based.

WELCOME TO THE HON. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons of United Kingdom, currently on a visit to our country as our honoured guest.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd and wish our distinguished guest an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during her stay here, she would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and that her visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and the United Kingdom. Through her we convey our greeting and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of United Kingdom.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— Contd.

Question No. 321—Contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, should we have some family planning on this question? I have at least 50 names before me. It is enough, because all the questions are going to be same. Let us have some more questions, because everyday we take more than half-an-hour for one question. Question No. 322.

Problems faced by Indians working in Gulf countries

*322. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 942 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by Indians working in Kuwait/UAE and other Gulf countries due to fradulent recruiting agencies and sponsors; and

(b) the details of steps taken by our Missions in these countries to help those Indians who have been cheated in various ways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): A copy of the answer to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 942, dated 31.7.97 referred to in the above referred Starred Question is enclosed (*See* below as Statement-I)

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Statement-II)

Statement-I

Repatriation of Malayali nurses from Kuwait

942. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested for the Central Government's intervention for repatriation of a large number of Malayali nurses who have taken refuge in the Indian Embassy in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Kerala in a letter dated 31.5.97 requested the Prime Minister of India's intervention to help the nurses, who had taken shelter in the Indian Embassy premises in Kuwait following a dispute with their employers. Of the 255 nursing assistants recruited for M/s Abdul Aziz Yousuf Al-Bora Kuwait through M/s.